



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, November 9, 2006

***GOVERNOR NAMES APPERSON AS DIRECTOR
OF STRATEGIC PLANNING AND BUDGETING***

Yaquinto to become President, CEO of the Arizona Utility Investors Association

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano today named James Apperson as the Director for her Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting (OSPB). He begins December 8, 2006.

Apperson will replace current OSPB Director Gary Yaquinto who is filling the vacancy created by retiring Bill Meek as President and CEO of the Arizona Utility Investors Association (AUIA). AUIA is a grassroots organization that advocates before public utility organizations and the Legislature for individual and business investors who own shares or bonds in utility companies that operate in Arizona. Educating public officials about the relationship between utility companies and the Arizona economy is also an important role of AUIA.

“Gary’s service in the Governor’s Office has been exemplary,” Governor Napolitano said. “His economic forecasting and budget analysis expertise have helped ensure that our state’s budget is balanced in a fiscally prudent manner.”

Apperson joined the Napolitano Administration October 2, 2006 as OSPB Deputy Director. He most recently served the private sector as President and CEO of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce. Previously, he was Executive Assistant to Governor Bruce Babbitt and Chief of Staff for Governor Rose Mofford. He also worked for the Arizona House of Representative and the Arizona Corporation Commission.

Additionally, Apperson has experience working for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and served as Manager of External Affairs for Southwest Gas Corporation. His education includes a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Arizona State University and a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science from Northern Arizona University.

“Jim’s background in both public and private sectors brings a specific strength to OSPB,” the Governor said. “His experience as President and CEO of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce will continue to build confidence within the business community that the state’s investment strategy will further strengthen the state’s economy.”

The Governor’s Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting is charged by statute with preparing budget recommendations for the Governor’s review and subsequent release of the next fiscal year’s budget each January.